

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

TOP SECRET/CODEWORD ATTACHED

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

SUBJECT: CIA Estimate of Chinese Intentions in Indochina

There have been recurrent rumors, some of them probably inspired by Hanoi, that Chinese troops either are or will soon be engaged in Laos and Cambodia.

At our request, CIA has prepared an estimate of the possibility of deeper Chinese involvement in Indochina (Tab A).

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The continuing willingness of Hanoi to pursue a policy of protracted war, plus the fortunate accident that placed Sihanouk in their hands, both serve Peking's strategy and aid it in competition with the Soviets for influence over Communist movements in Southeast Asia. Peking probably does not believe that our entry into Cambodia has imperiled Hanoi's ability to maintain its policy and continue the war. Under this combination of circumstances, Peking must believe that things are going rather well and that it has little reason to change its policies.

Attachment

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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[Attached to TS Memo, H5-E482a, 231 May 1970]